

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 11 being the independent claims. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a minor defect in form. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5-8, 10, 15-18, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9, 11-14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuttle, U.S. Patent No. 6,357,025 (Tuttle). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action, the "digitized sense signal" recited in Applicants' independent claim 1 and 11 is equated with the "signal that receive from the power circuitry 80." (Office Action, p. 2). Applicants respectfully disagree with this understanding of Tuttle. In Tuttle, power circuitry 80 receives an RF signal from an

interrogator unit 20. (Tuttle, col. 5, lines 40-43; Fig. 3). The power circuitry 80 captures energy from the oscillating signal and stores it in capacitor 88. (Tuttle, col. 5, lines 43-45). Power circuitry 80 then supplies energy to power operational circuitry 130. (Tuttle, col. 5, lines 45-46). In addition, the power circuitry does not perform any measurement of the stored energy prior to supplying it to the operational circuitry. Thus, Tuttle does not teach or suggest "receiving at least one digitized sense signal from the integrated circuit chip, whereby the at least one digitized sense signal represents a corresponding process-dependent parameter" and "wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit", as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Furthermore, Tuttle does not teach or suggest the step of or means for "determining an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal" wherein "the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit", as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. As discussed above, operational circuitry 130 of Tuttle utilizes the energy supplied by the power circuitry 80 for power. (Tuttle, col. 5, lines 45-46). Tuttle does not teach or suggest that the supplied energy is used for any other purposes. Thus, the operational circuitry 130 does not determine an analog value for a process-dependent circuit parameter represented by a digitized sense signal. Furthermore, the operational circuitry 130 does not utilize an analog value for a process-dependent circuit parameter to correct for the process-dependent parameter.

Based on the above, Applicants submit that Tuttle does not teach or suggest every feature recited in Applicants' amended independent claims 1 and 11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 11 is requested.

For at least the reasons provided above with respect to claims 1 and 11, and further in view of their own features, claims 2-4 and 9 which depend from claim 1, and claims 12-14 and 19 which depend from claim 11, respectively, are patentable over Tuttle. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 9, 12-16 and 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

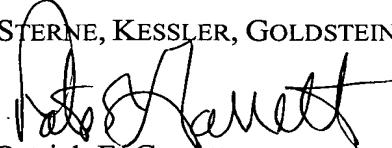
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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